

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2197

Introduced by Assembly Member Coto

February 18, 2010

An act to amend Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to problem gambling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2197, as introduced, Coto. Problem and pathological gambling. Existing law establishes the Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling within the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, and sets forth its duties relating to prevention and control of problem and pathological gambling, as defined.

This bill would require the prevention program developed by the office to include development of education and awareness programs that specifically target geographically diverse multicultural populations, and would permit the office to develop a grant program for education, outreach, and prevention, giving preferences to grant applications that meet prescribed conditions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4369.2 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 4369.2. (a) The office shall develop a problem gambling
- 4 prevention program, which shall be the first priority for funding
- 5 appropriated to this office. The prevention program shall be based

1 upon the allocation priorities established by the department and
2 subject to funding being appropriated for the purpose of this
3 subdivision, and shall consist of all of the following:

4 (1) A toll-free telephone service for immediate crisis
5 management and containment with subsequent referral of problem
6 and pathological gamblers to health providers who can provide
7 treatment for ~~gambling-related~~ *gambling related* problems and to
8 self-help groups.

9 (2) Public awareness campaigns that focus on prevention and
10 education among the general public including, for example,
11 dissemination of ~~youth-oriented~~ *youth oriented* preventive
12 literature, educational experiences, and public service
13 announcements in the media.

14 (3) *Development of problem gambling education and awareness*
15 *programs that specifically target geographically diverse*
16 *multicultural populations.*

17 ~~(3)~~

18 (4) Empirically driven research programs focusing on
19 epidemiology/prevalence, etiology/causation, and best practices
20 in prevention and treatment.

21 ~~(4)~~

22 (5) Training of health care professionals and educators, and
23 training for law enforcement agencies and nonprofit organizations
24 in the identification of problem gambling behavior and knowledge
25 of referral services and treatment programs.

26 ~~(5)~~

27 (6) Training of gambling industry personnel in identifying
28 customers at risk for problem and pathological gambling and
29 knowledge of referral and treatment services.

30 (b) The office shall develop a program to support treatment
31 services for California residents with problem and pathological
32 gambling issues. The program shall be based upon the allocation
33 priorities established by the department and subject to funding
34 being appropriated for the purposes of this subdivision. These
35 priorities shall also be based on the best available existing state
36 programs as well as on continuing research into best practices and
37 on the needs of California. The treatment program shall consist of
38 all of the following components:

39 (1) Treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers
40 and directly involved family members. These treatment services

1 will be created through partnerships with established health
2 facilities that can provide treatment for ~~gambling-related~~
3 *gambling-related* problems, substance abuse facilities, and
4 providers. ~~State-funded~~ *State-funded* treatment may include, but
5 is not limited to, the following: self-administered, home-based
6 educational programs; outpatient treatment; residential treatment;
7 and inpatient treatment when medically necessary.

8 (2) A funding allocation methodology that ensures treatment
9 services are delivered efficiently and effectively to areas of the
10 state most in need.

11 (3) Appropriate review and monitoring of treatment programs
12 by the director of the office or a designated institution, including
13 grant oversight and monitoring, standards for treatment, and
14 outcome monitoring.

15 (4) Treatment efforts shall provide services that are relevant to
16 the needs of a diverse multicultural population with attention to
17 groups with unique needs, including female gamblers, underserved
18 ethnic groups, the elderly, and the physically challenged.

19 *(c) The office may develop a grant program for education,*
20 *outreach, and prevention. In establishing the grant program, the*
21 *office may give preference to grant applications that do any of the*
22 *following:*

23 *(1) Provide matching funds to coordinate efforts and maximize*
24 *the effectiveness of limited funds to raise awareness and change*
25 *the behavior of at-risk populations.*

26 *(2) Target geographically diverse multicultural populations.*

27 *(3) Educate youth.*

28 ~~(e)~~

29 *(d) The office shall make information available as requested by*
30 *the Governor and the Legislature with respect to the comprehensive*
31 *program.*